

**Minutes of Meeting of Polly Dyer Seattle Chapter**  
**Great Old Broads for Wilderness**  
7:00 PM, February 22, 2024 via Zoom

*The meeting was called to order by Barbara Phalen at 7:04 PM. Penelope was sick and had asked Barbara to lead the meeting*

*Members present were Joanna Nelson de Flores, Wendy Roedell, Genia Moncada, Barbara Phalen, Nora Langen, Janna Treisman, Ester MacIlroy, Susan Bocek, Jody Louise, Barbara Sanborn, Karen Lee, Dave Cook, Pati An, Natalie Taylor, Peggy LovellFord, Kelly Hollowood, Kate Bradley, Margaret Rands, Susan Kostick, and Mary Anderson.*

**Joanna Nelson de Flores – Presentation and Discussion**

*Joanna currently serves as Urban Forest Program Manager for King County. Prior to that, she worked for two years for Forterra as Restoration and Stewardship Managing Director where she had major responsibility to develop and expand the Green City Partnerships, a community-based stewardship program to restore and care for urban forested parks, natural areas, and tree canopy. During Joanna's time, the program grew from its inception with the Green Seattle Partnership to a network of 15 Green City/County programs, working to restore more than 13,000 acres of urban forest across the region.*

- Nora introduced Joanna and shared her extensive background.*
- Joanna explained that an "urban forest" is all the trees in an urban area, including trees in backyards, on the streets, in parks, and any other place trees are found.*
- Challenges to the trees include topping, insects, lack of water, etc.*
- Forests cover more than 800,000 acres in King County, or about 60% of the county. 33.5% is owned federally. King County only owns 3%.*
- King County developed a 30-year forest plan in 2021, including climate, forest health, urban forest canopy, human health, salmon habitat, water quality and sustainable timber. These focus areas interact.*
- The goals are to retain and increase tree canopy, promote forest health, and prioritize equity & cultural resources.*
- King County is considering what resources for trees can be provided to unincorporated King County areas that receive no services from a city.*
- King County sponsors an Urban Forestry Forum for County city staff and is working on a tree code analysis so that cities can see what other cities are doing regarding their trees.*

- *The County is developing a First Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy, including Heat Strategy Goals for Urban Forestry. This includes maintaining and sustaining existing trees, expanding the tree canopy, and avoiding the creation of new heat islands in neighborhoods. Heat islands are created when there is little or no tree canopy to protect against the sun.*

- *The 3 Million Trees by 2025 Campaign includes Plant trees, Protect Trees, Restore Trees. This ambitious Campaign is part of the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan. The effort contributes to climate change mitigation, forest health, improved salmon habitat and more tree canopy in urban areas.*

- *Volunteer efforts include email [parksvolunteer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:parksvolunteer@kingcounty.gov); (check out <https://kcpyouthcorps.org/>); Trees for Seattle; and Green City Partnerships*

- *The King County Land Conservation Initiative includes goals to preserve trees and forest land throughout the county by collaborating with cities, business people, farmers, environmental partners and others to create a strategy to preserve our last, most important natural lands and urban green space in 30 years.*

- *When it comes to tree codes, every city has their own codes. So, you can look at your own city's website to find tree codes. The King County tree codes would only apply to unincorporated areas.*

- *In addition, cities have their own tree care plans. King County is developing one. Check out Plant Amnesty for possible resources and the Trees for Seattle website.*

- *Joanna's Contact information:*

*Joanna Nelson de Flores*

*Urban Forestry Program Manager*

*[jonelson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jonelson@kingcounty.gov)*

**Stop the Asphalt Plant on the Cedar River and other Announcements** – Barb Phalen announced several upcoming events that might be of interest.

- *To raise funds for lawyers to support the "Stop the Asphalt Plan" case, the Save The River folks are having a Lunar New Year Dinner and Bingo on February 24.*

- *Save the Salmon Town Hall on Saturday. Barbara and Nora are going. It's free but requires registration.*

- *The Healing Heart of Lushootseed story of Vi Hilbert is a documentary film at the Vashon Theater about a Salish woman's effort to save the world. The film will be shown on March 5, at 6:00 PM.*

A “Breach the Lower Snake River Dams” rally will be held in Olympia on March 11 from 11am to 1pm.. Barbara plans on attending and will carpool with anyone who wants to come to her house first.

· “Words, Writers & Southwest Stories” will present Harriet Baskas Weird, Wonderful, and Worrisome Objects in Washington’s State’s Museums on Thursday, March 14, at 6PM via Zoom You can sign up using this link: [aploghousemuseum.org/blog/thursday-march-14<sup>th</sup>-at-6pm-words-writers-southwest-stories-presents/](http://aploghousemuseum.org/blog/thursday-march-14<sup>th</sup>-at-6pm-words-writers-southwest-stories-presents/)

### **Protect Legacy Forests – Genia Moncada**

· Bill 5667 about the Small Forest Land passed the Senate, and is being heard in the Capital Budget Committee tomorrow. We need to tell the House representatives to pass this bill. It increases the amount of money that can be offered to Small Forest Landowners to manage their trees and to protect riparian areas. It will show them how to protect trees and prevent fires, and help water, salmon, trees. Ask your house reps to vote “yes” on this bill. Go to [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov) and put in your address, and you’ll be shown your legislators addresses so you can send a quick email.

· The legislature is now considering money to save more mature and old growth forests. The House has passed it, and the Senate needs to pass it next. In addition, the legislature is considering \$8,000 for several specific projects that didn’t get approved in the last trust lands transfer opportunity last year. The good news is that the legislature is considering funding ways to save trees. Genia asked us to contact our legislators to pass these bills. Let’s hope they pass!

· The League of Women Voters Newsletter comes once a week with legislative information, and you can sign up to receive it. The Center for Responsible Forestry also sends a newsletter, and you can get on their list if you go to their website. The Center sends regular emails with useful legislative information about trees.

The meeting ended at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Roedell